

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 054991  
ORIGIN PM-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-10 L-03  
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12  
OMB-01 /072 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISP:JPLEONARD  
APPROVED BY PM/ISP:JHAWES  
EA/J - E. FEATHERSTONE  
-----107413 032007Z /43

R 031850Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
INFO SECDEF  
CINCPAC

S E C R E T STATE 054991

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, US, JA, XB, XE

SUBJECT: JAPANESE CONCERNS OVER DEFENSE POSTURE STATEMENT

1. JAPANESE EMBASSY POLITICAL COUNSELOR ARIMA CALLED ON PM FEB 28 TO DISCUSS SECDEF'S FY 79 DEFENSE REPORT. ARIMA SAID STRONG EMPHASIS IN REPORT ON DEFENSE OF WESTERN EUROPE ADDED FUEL TO BELIEF AMONG CONSERVATIVE LDP MEMBERS, ACADEMICS AND CERTAIN GOJ OFFICIALS THAT US IS PULLING OUT OF ASIA AND THAT JAPAN SHOULD ADOPT MORE „SELF-SUFFICIENT" DEFENSE POLICY. SECDEF'S FEB. 20 SPEECH ON US POSTURE IN ASIA WOULD HELP COUNTERACT THIS, BUT PROBLEM REMAINED.

2. ARIMA SAID SECURITY AFFAIRS DIVISION OF FONOFF NORTH AMERICAN BUREAU BELIEVED SUCH A DRIFT IN JAPANESE THINKING -OULD BE DAMAGING TO LONG RUN US-JAPANESE RELATIONS, AND  
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WAS PREPARING PAPER FOR INTERNAL USE AND DISCUSSION WHICH WOULD ARGUE THAT SECDEF'S REPORT DOES REFLECT CONTINUED US DETERMINATION TO MAINTAIN STRONG MILITARY POSTURE IN ASIA. HE WAS LOOKING FOR LINES OF ARGUMENT WHICH WOULD SUPPORT THIS VIEW.

3. PM OFFICERS NOTED THAT REPORT CONTINUED TO REFLECT

STRONG COMMITMENT TO SECURITY IN ASIA. IT EMPHASIZED

PROBLEM OF CONVENTIONAL FORCE BALANCE IN EUROPE AND REMEDIAL MEASURES NECESSARY BECAUSE THIS WAS THE IMMEDIATE REALITY WE FACED. AS REPORT POINTS OUT, THREATS IN ASIA LESS CLEARLY DEFINED; SOVIET THREAT AIMED PRIMARILY AT CHINA, AND NORTH KOREAN THREAT, WHILE SERIOUS AND UNAMBIGUOUS, CLEARLY OF FAR LESS MAGNITUDE THAN THAT FACED IN EUROPE FROM SOVIETS. THE IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR FORCES WHICH WE UNDERTAKING FOR EUROPE WOULD ENHANCE OUR GLOBAL CAPABILITIES. THE ONLY FORCES WE ARE WITHDRAWING FROM ASIA ARE IN KOREA, WHERE ROK CAPABILITIES RAPIDLY IMPROVING. GIVEN CONTINUED SINO-SOVIET DISPUTE AND UNLIKELIHOOD OF US-CHINA CONFLICT, US FELT THE ASIAN SITUATION WAS LESS THREATENING. ARIMA SAID TREATMENT OF "ONE AND ONE-HALF WAR" STRATEGY IN THIS YEAR'S REPORT GAVE JAPANESE TROUBLE, SINCE, AS THEY READ IT, ONLY MAJOR CONFLICT WHICH US PREPARED FOR IS NATO-PACT WAR IN EUROPE; ASIAN CONTINGENCIES SEEMINGLY RELEGATED TO STATUS OF "MINOR" CONFLICTS. PM OFFICERS NOTED THAT "ONE AND ONE-HALF WAR" STRATEGY REMAINED THE SAME AS IN PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. MOREOVER, IT IS CONCEPT FOR SIZING FORCES AND NATO-PACT WAR IS MOST DEMANDING CASE. TO EXTENT OUR FORCES ADEQUATE TO DEAL WITH IT THEY SHOULD BE CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH LESS DEMANDING THREATS. CONCEPT DOES NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY, HOWEVER, THAT "MAJOR" WAR MIGHT  
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4. ARIMA ALSO POSED SERIES OF MORE DETAILED QUESTIONS, PROVIDED BY FONOFF, ON SPECIFIC ELEMENTS IN SECDEF AND JCS CHAIRMAN'S POSTURE STATEMENTS, MANY OF WHICH APPEAR TO HAVE STEMMED FROM MISUNDERSTANDING OF LANGUAGE OF REPORT. WE ARE POUCHING EMBASSY TOKYO LIST OF THESE QUESTIONS TOGETHER WITH ANSWERS PROVIDED TO JAPANESE EMBASSY. CHRISTOPHER

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /013 R

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DRAFTED BY:EA/K:FMISCH

APPROVED BY:EA/K:RICH

-----001463 071115Z /21

R 070315Z MAR 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8350

S E C R E T STATE 054991

FOL STATE 054991 SENT ACTION TOKYO INFO SECDEF, CINCPAC  
MAR 3, 1978 REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T STATE 054991

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014